

Anti-Slavery Office,

New York, 13 March, 1865.

My Dear May,

Circumstances which I need not stop to explain have prevented an earlier reply to your "private" letter of the 4th. I am very busy to-day, but as the Committee may meet to-morrow, I must take time to write at least a few lines.

In the first place let me thank you for the very clear statement of your views in the letter to which I refer. You certainly put the case very strongly, and if you are right in the belief that ~~we~~ we cannot reasonably hope ~~for~~ to obtain the funds necessary to continue the Standard another year, we must stop it of course. Upon that point I consider your judgment far better than my own, as you have had

a large experience in collecting funds
and know all the difficulties that lie
in the way of future effort. But I
still think it desirable to keep the paper
alive to record the official ratification
of the Constitutional amendment, and
that the Committee, before deciding the
matter, should take the readers of the
paper into counsel with themselves.
If, however, Garrison and Quincy think
the time to stop has come, or will have
come at the end of the present volume,
I shall myself almost despair of the
success of any plan to procure funds
for its longer continuance. It would
be a great pity, it seems to me, to spend
the time of our annual meeting in a
debate (likely enough to be partizan and
acrimonious) of the question whether to
disband or continue our operations. My
fear is that upon that question we should

split, and that friend Garrison and those
agreeing with him would be voted down;
Whereas, if ^{it} were understood that the Society,
and ^{the} paper, ^{too,} ~~would~~ if possible, would be
kept alive till the consummation of the
great Amendment, I think we might
hope to have a pretty peaceable and
harmonious anniversary, and in ^{May,} 1866,
or sooner, hold our Jubilee by common
consent and wind up our affairs
gloriously, without ~~any~~ opposition from
any in our ranks. Of course, if we
can't keep the Standard going, we
can't, and must stop it accordingly;
but my idea is that the Committee,
~~should not~~ ^{should not} take this for granted, but in
some way give opportunity for the friends
of the cause to express their opinions.

You are at liberty to read to the
Committee such portions of this or my

former letter as you may think proper.
I have written the substance of all I
could say if I ^{should be} ~~were~~ at the meeting.

I have had a great deal of talk
with Aaron Powell, who is now a
frequent and very welcome visitor at the
office. Since he left the lecturing field, and
got out of the atmosphere of some members of
the Hovey Committee, his mind seems clearer
and somewhat more candid that it was. As
he happened to be in the office when your
letter came, I ventured to show it to him, being
sure that you, if present and knowing his
frame of mind, would not object. He said
he would write to you, expressing his
sentiment, and I presume he has done so.

What you say of the character of the
Standard and of the manner in which it has
been conducted gratifies me exceedingly. I have
enjoyed my work upon the paper, though it has
often overstressed me, and it will be painful in
some respects to leave it and enter upon ^a new occu-
pation; but I am for stopping it the instant we
can say with truth that slavery is abolished.

With great regard,

Yours faithfully, Oliver Johnson